

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-5 and 13. These sheets, which includes Figures 1-14, replace the original sheets including those same Figures. A “Prior Art” label has been added to Figures 1-5 and 13.

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-14 are now present in this application. Claims 1 and 8 are independent. Claim 14 has been amended.

Amendments have been made to the specification and drawings. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 28, 2005, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-SB08 form filed therewith.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because Figures 1-5 and 13 should have a "Prior Art" label.

In order to overcome this objection, Applicants are concurrently submitting Replacement Drawing Sheets for the Examiner's approval, which address the deficiency pointed out by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Specification Objection and Substitute Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification because of several informalities.

In order to overcome this objection, Applicants submit a substitute specification in order to correct the deficiencies pointed out by the Examiner. Also included is a marked-up copy of the

original specification which shows the portions of the original specification which are being added and deleted. Applicant respectfully submits that the substitute specification includes no new matter and that the substitute specification includes the same changes as are indicated in the marked-up copy of the original specification showing additions and deletions. It is noted that the Examiner's suggestion "(A)" regarding updating the specification does not appear to be necessary, in accordance with MPEP 1893.03(c), which states the following:

Note: a national stage application submitted under 35 U.S.C. 371 may not claim benefit of the filing date of the international application of which it is the national stage since its filing date is the date of filing of that international application. See also MPEP § 1893.03(b). Stated differently, since the international application is not an earlier application (it has the same filing date as the national stage), a benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. 120 in the national stage to the international application is inappropriate and may result in the submission being treated as an application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a). See MPEP § 1893.03(a). Accordingly, it is not necessary for the applicant to amend the first sentence(s) of the specification to reference the international application number that was used to identify the application during international processing of the application by the international authorities prior to commencement of the national stage. (emphasis added)

However, if the Examiner believes it is still necessary, the Examiner is authorized to make the insertion by Examiner's Amendment. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 14 because of a grammatical error. In order to overcome this objection, Applicants have amended claim 14 as suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-14 are allowed.

Cited References

Since the references cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but have merely been cited to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

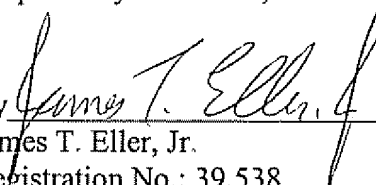
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone James T. Eller, Jr., Registration No. 39,538, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Attachments: Replacement Drawing Sheets
Substitute Specification (Marked-up and Clean)